

1946

Racially Speaking
by
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Guest Columnist

I have received a postal card from a man who put the following return address on the card: Mr. William J. Jones, 127 Cortlandt Street, Belleville 9, New Jersey. He had received a mimeographed letter of invitation to a Veterans Conference, July 19, 7:30 P.M., at the Sojourner Truth Branch YWCA, 52 Jones Street, Newark. Copies of this letter were sent from the Industrial Relations Secretary of the New Jersey Urban League to over one thousand Veterans over the state of New Jersey. The letter pointed up the extra problems some Veterans have merely because they happen to be Negroes, and invited consideration by Veterans themselves of ways to right this undemocratic wrong.

Mr. Jones' postal card was as follows: "You made quite a mistake in sending me a letter today. I would like very much to inform you that I am not a Negro. Please send no more such letters to this address. I am not interested in them."

We might wonder if this Veteran was "interested in" the ammunition that was supplied all American combat troops in the European Theater of Operations, that was supplied by Negro troops. We might wonder if this Veteran was "interested in" the blood banks of black and white people, blood that was given to those who needed it, regardless of the color of those needing it or of those who gave it. We might wonder if he were interested in the assurance he had that if wounded and needing blood, that blood would be available, to save his life, blood from a white person, or a black person with nothing to distinguish one from the other.

We thank God that many lives of black and white servicemen were saved by doctors using blood of black and white Americans.

Veterans standing up to help plan aid for the excessive problems of

themselves or of their buddies would be a grand sight. Indeed, some have said it is a necessary sight, a necessary beginning if we are ever going to have the One World of Wendell Wilkie, or the peace and harmony in Prosperity that I am sure we all want.

Some of Bloomfield's industrial plants have apprenticeship training programs for Veterans. It would be interesting to mention in this column just which plants in Bloomfield have refused Veterans when they happened to be Negroes.

All Veterans can help erase blots like these. Everybody can remind the Mr. Joneses of the inter-dependence of peoples and of cities, highlighted in war but still real in peace.